

RECORD OF TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

On December 2, an interview was conducted with Primary Examiner Kenneth Wells. The substance of the interview concerned the specific amendments provided herein, which are intended to overcome the Primary Examiner's objections to the Claims. In particular, the Primary Examiner's objections to recitation of intended use features (i.e., data signal and signal pairs) was understood to be overcome by adding the signal inputs as elements of the Claims. The Primary Examiner's objection to the references to ``detecting a signal'' are understood to be overcome by amending the language to read ``detecting a value of the signal.'' Specific references to an active mode having a gain were understood to be surmountable by changing the language to refer to a comparator having a gain in an active region of operation.

The support in the specification as to summing was discussed, as reiterated herein below with particular reference to the portions of the specification that support the recitation of ``summing''. The objection to the language ``in conformity with a common mode voltage'' was discussed as well as the support in the specification and an understanding was reached as to removal of this objection.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 18-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 16 and 17 were previously canceled and Claims 8-15 are currently withdrawn from prosecution.

The Primary Examiner has objected to Claims 1-6 and 18-22 as containing informalities as described above in the record of telephonic interview. Claims 1-6 has been amended to recite the signal inputs as elements, and dependent claims, including Claims 9 and 10 that are currently withdrawn from prosecution, in order to preserve consistency of the elements. Claim 1 has been further amended to recite detecting a value of a signal. The Primary Examiner's objections to the recitation of common mode voltage are understood to have been removed, but for purposes of reference, Applicants respectfully point out that the support for using the common mode value of the differential signal pair as a reference for detecting a value of the single-ended signal is provided at page 12, lines 3-6. The Primary Examiner's objection to Claim 3 in that the singlential comparator does not perform a summing operation is also addressed in the above-referenced section.

The Primary Examiner's objection to the recitation of an active mode having gain is believed to have been overcome by amending claim 6 to recite a gain of the comparators in an active region of operation.

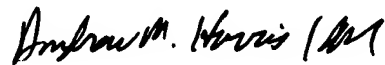
Finally, the Primary Examiner has objected to Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter not described in the specification in a manner sufficient to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the invention. Specifically, the Primary Examiner stated in the Office Action that the specification does not enable the last four lines of Claim 5, which recites a singlential comparator that detects a value of a single-ended data signal in conformity with an average of a value of a non-inverted signal and a value of an inverted signal of a differential data signal pair. Applicants respectfully point out that the averaging operation is also disclosed in the above-referenced paragraph, as in the depicted embodiment the average is the common-mode voltage described therein.

The Claims have been Amended to overcome each of the objections made by the Examiner as discussed in the Telephonic Interview and Applicants have further pointed out specific language that supports the claim elements objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, therefore Applicants believe that the Primary Examiner's objections to the Claims have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

No fees should be incurred by this Amendment other than the fee for a one-month Extension of Time for which a check is attached, but if there are any other fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from IBM Deposit Account NO. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Harris" followed by a stylized monogram or initials.

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